



KENNY C. GUINN
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE FINANCING AND POLICY
NEVADA MEDICAID

MICHAEL J. WILLDEN
Director

CHARLES DUARTE
Administrator

November 1, 2005

Dear Medicaid Recipient:

This letter is to let you know that the way you get prescription drugs is changing effective January 1, 2006.

As a Medicaid recipient, you are currently able to go to any participating Nevada Medicaid pharmacy to have your prescriptions filled. That changes on January 1, 2006. Beginning on that date, you will only be able to use an approved **Medicare** drug plan provider.

By November 15, 2005, you will be sent information about the drug plans available to you. You must enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan before December 31, 2005. **If you do not choose a plan by December 31st, you will be automatically enrolled in one by Medicare.** This may or may not be the best plan for your prescription drug needs, so it is important for you to review all plans and choose the one that best suits your needs. Plans will vary by drugs covered, pharmacies you can use, and monthly premium amounts. You will have at least two plans to choose from in your area.

If Medicare enrolls you in a plan and you later find that there is another Medicare prescription drug plan in your area that better meets your needs, you can change plans at any time. However, it may take at least a month before the change becomes effective.

Since you currently receive Medicaid, Medicare will provide you with extra help to pay for the monthly premium and annual deductible that are normally associated with participation in Part D. Also because you are on Medicaid now, you do not have to apply for this extra help. However, it is important to know that if you choose a plan that offers prescription drug coverage over and above the basic Part D requirements, your monthly premium may not be paid in full. These plans are called "enhanced plans" and their monthly premium cost may exceed the amount that Medicare can pay on your behalf. If you choose an enhanced plan, you will be expected to pay the difference between the amount Medicare will pay and the amount the plan charges.

Medicare Part D will require small prescription co-pays for beneficiaries who currently receive prescription coverage under Medicaid, with the exception of those who live in nursing facilities. However, Nevada's Senior Rx and Disability Rx programs plan to cover the cost of co-pays for all other Nevada Medicaid recipients who are also Medicare beneficiaries. You do not have to apply for this assistance.

If you have prescription drug coverage through your past or current employer or union, you may not need to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan if the coverage provided is at least as good as Medicare prescription drug coverage. Talk with your employer or your union's benefits administrator for more information about your current prescription drug coverage. Compare it to Medicare prescription drug coverage and make a decision that best meets your needs.

If you are eligible for Medicaid and Medicare, Nevada Medicaid will continue to provide drug coverage for you for the following drugs that will not be covered under Medicare:

- Over-the-Counter Medications
- Vitamins and Pre-natal Vitamins
- Cough and Cold Medications
- Benzodiazepines (Xanax, Valium, Ativan)
- Barbiturates

The Part D Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) that you select may not cover all of the prescriptions that Medicaid allowed for you in the past. If they are not in the drug list above, Medicaid will not be paying for these drugs in the future. For example, if you were able to receive Nexium through Medicaid, your Medicare Drug Plan may not allow Nexium. If you want to continue to use this specific drug, you will have to pay out of pocket.

If you need help choosing a Medicare prescription drug plan, you may:

- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.
- Look at www.medicare.gov on the web and get personalized information.
- Call the Division for Aging Services' State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), at 1-800-307-4444 or in Las Vegas 486-3478.
- Call the Senior Rx Medicare Help Line at 1-866-323-5953.

Sincerely,

Charles Duarte
Administrator